

# KEEP THE HOME INTACT BEST PLAN FOR STATE TO CARE FOR CHILDREN

**Sophie Irene Loeb, Member of State Commission, Tells How Foreign Countries Provide Home Environments for Little Ones.**

By Sophie Irene Loeb.

How should the State best conserve the child, Johnny Doe, that he become an asset rather than a liability to the community?

This is the question to come before the present Legislature as a result of the investigations of a commission consisting of three Senators, five Assemblymen and seven laymen.

As a member of the commission, after visiting England, France, Germany, Denmark, Switzerland and Scotland, this is what I found:

New York and, in fact, the United States, have more institutions and less family life for children than any other country in the world.

The needs of a common, ordinary, everyday, average poor family are not less adequately by our present relief system than any other country with the exception of England.

Governmental aid in America is very irregular and is largely temporary, with little aim toward relief that looks to the future in making citizens.

The relation of the child and the State is closer in any other country than America.

Every nation is awakening to the economic importance of conservation of the child. Formerly there has been more energy directed in conserving the forests and the fish than the child.

Denmark has a new law, put into effect this year, which takes the widowed mother out of the poor relief system entirely and gives her a claim on the state for her support.

France at the same time has just appropriated \$10,000,000 for keeping the family intact and to encourage birth.

Switzerland has raised allowances for boarding-out children this year in most of the districts.

Scotland, after forty years pasturing a boarding-out system of children, annually improves the allowances for each child.

England is questioning the wisdom of old age pensions and looking toward child conservation.

Germany increases state aid for children and regards itself as the father of the fatherless child, this relationship becoming more marked annually.

IMPORTANT FACTOR IS TO KEEP THE FAMILY INTACT.

After consulting with the various governmental heads of these countries, in their opinions and from present statistics as a result of years of experience, the economical solution points to the cause of prevention rather than the pound of cure. The most important factor everywhere is to keep the family intact or otherwise provide family life wherever it is possible, since statistics indicate that fewer criminals result than when children are cared for in institutions.

In fact, the institution in Europe is regarded as only a temporary abode for the child until some place is provided for it either in the home of relatives or foster guardians. In other words, it is merely a transient place. James R. Motion of Scotland, who has spent forty years in the active work of poor relief and been sixteen years director of Glasgow poor relief, stated: "Let me catch a child in an institution for more than a couple of weeks and the officials of that institution have to answer direct to me."

This is the general feeling against child-caring institutions and so it happens that there are at present in Glasgow 16,779 children that are under parents or guardians, the direct work of the State, and but about 100 institutions; and in Berlin in last September there were 6,708 in private homes, against 28 in institutions. By the Scotch system of the poor relief for children, they pay for the care of each child about \$1.50 a week on an average.

SHOULD LET TO THINK IT IS INDEPENDENT.

Besides this, clothing and medical treatment are given, and such clothing would do credit to the average well-to-do family of New York City—no uniforms, but various kinds of robes and clothes for the child to wear from a clean institution to the home of the child, but in such a way that the child itself does not realize that it is dependent on the State.

It becomes one of the family in which it is placed. And this scheme, after many years' trial, proves that the child becomes absorbed in the population and does not bear the stamp of having been reared in an orphan asylum or any other pauper institution. Actual statistics show that less than 1 per cent. of the children thus treated become criminals and less than 3 per cent. return to the Government for poor relief.

This same view of the child is evident in the other countries. The strong feeling everywhere is firmly against institutional care for children except infirm, delinquent or otherwise weak, dependent children.

NEW YORK CHARITY OPPOSITION TO PROSPECTIVE LAWS.

Before I went to Europe the commission held several public hearings, where the heads of charity organizations presented their views as to the prospective laws dealing with dependent children and especially those of widowed mothers, with which this commission will deal first.

The general contention against the new law was the idea that if the State grants aid to the widowed mother it would "pauperize" her, and that it was wrong economics to thus "subsidize" the children. The great substitute generally advised by these opponents to new legislation was a Social Insurance act.

Another remedy offered was that if the private charity organizations had more money they could adequately meet these conditions. There was some suggestion that the State might grant mothers' pensions, but administer this law through the existing private charities. Therefore I particularly gave attention to these points in the foreign countries.

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As to Social Insurance the contention that it would alleviate this form of distress (dependent or fatherless children) is almost absurd and so regarded by the prominent officials abroad who administer the laws. In fact, in Germany where Social Insurance is generally credited as being most perfected, since it began in 1883 until the present day, the amount expended by the Government for poor relief has increased annually and it is only since 1912 that any Social Insurance law in Berlin affects, by pension, the widow and her children, and the sum is so inadequate that it is hardly to be reckoned with.

For example, if a man dies who has paid insurance for thirty years, his widow gets a pension of \$1.54 a month and his child gets a little over a dollar a month.

REGARDING ENGLAND'S SOCIAL INSURANCE.

That England now realizes the great need of conserving youth to avoid such enormous expenditures in old age pensions seemed evident when I talked with C. F. Adair Hore, the most noteworthy authority on poor relief in Europe. As a member of the Royal Commission on Poor Laws, he presented an exhaustive work on foreign and colonial systems of poor relief.

It was gratifying to find that Mr. Hore's deductions agreed with my findings after I had covered similar ground.

As he is now a member of the Insurance Act Commission, a better opinion could hardly be found in a comparison of these two elements—Social Insurance and Poor Relief. Mr. Hore said to me:

"I believe it is time that every nation is waking up to the most important problem, that of the child. We have here in England especially that problem, before us, and the time is ripe since we have by the Social Insurance act now taken care of every employed adult against sickness and this will also create some benefit for old age."

"But the insurance act does not take care of the members of the family who are not employed and therefore can hardly be said to affect them. Especially in this case with children, for the insurance act provides no more benefits for a father or mother with a number of children than with one."

"The only benefit that directly affects the child as a result of the insurance act is that of the maternity benefit. Therefore, practical legislation for taking care of the child properly, that is the children that come under the present poor relief system, should be of the utmost importance to every Government. For it must be economical to make the dependent child self-sustaining, so that when relief is given to him during his early years a foundation for good citizenship should naturally follow."

"What the general attitude of poor relief practically everywhere has been heretofore is that of dealing almost entirely with destitution and distress. That is to say, we have aimed to give temporary relief during periodical distress or we have cared for the entirely destitute, but with the exception of old age pensions we have hardly looked to the future in providing these two elements of poor relief, destitution and distress."

"I am convinced that the first step in this direction of future conditions is to give adequate relief in the home of the dependent child, and perhaps the wisest plan is to begin with the widowed mother as your commission plans to do. Some measure for permanent relief should be given to the worthy mother with several children for their proper upbringing. There can be, in such a case, no question as to the necessity."

"I would also advocate that the home be kept intact as much as possible, but where that is impossible I think our cottage plan of housing children has considerable merit. I think there is great work to be done by them in the direction of better education, vocational training facilities and general uplift, but this problem in its entirety must be one for the State. As to administration of such a relief law, I think it might best be operated through a department of State rather than societies."

"Here in London when the insurance act went into effect, owing to the demands of friendly societies in which people were already insured, it was necessary to operate through the societies. But where no such conditions exist, it would seem that such a law were best administered in a direct way—by the government itself."

NEW LAWS FOR CHILDREN ALL OVER EUROPE.

In Denmark, where the most complete provisions have been made for various kinds of social insurance against illness, accident, workman's compensation, etc., and where the State everlastingly continues to make provisions against pauperism of children—where they have more money in the savings banks per capita than any other country—these scientific economists have taken the widowed mother with children entirely out of poor relief system.

Social Insurance has not in the past given her any measure of relief. Therefore, she is now regarded as having a claim on the State until the child is fourteen years of age, and until eighteen if the child is learning a trade. (Of course, cost of living is much lower in Denmark than here.) This is fixed and not in any way supplementary or temporary.

This mother, according to the new law, may have property or money in the savings bank to the amount of \$1,000, and each of her children may have similar property to the amount of \$25, yet she is a regular recipient of the widow's pension.

She may work and have other resources, yet unless her income equals the lowest taxable income she has this first claim on the State for the children. This is bound to encourage thrift in the mother and give her greater opportunities for the rearing of her children.

Further, as to the insurance act in England, it is still largely somewhat of an alibi, with the ramifications reaching to the nth power. Lloyd-George is still explaining it, and the authorities generally agree that such a gigantic scheme was too hastily drawn and that in reality the Government "bit off more than it can chew."

As in Germany, this insurance act has very little effect in alleviating the distress of the poor family, and only in the case of childbirth does it actually affect the children. Unless the widowed mother is a working unit, it cannot affect her and her family at all. In truth, it has perhaps injured her interest to no small degree. Private charities have more difficulty in obtaining money than before the act.

The general opinion is voiced by Mr. J. Sandeman Allen of Liverpool, who is president of several charities, including various child organizations. Mr. Allen stated to me:

"My experience in connection with the above charities has led me to the conviction that the insurance act in Great Britain has had no effect on the work of the charities dealing with women and children. The act is supposed to benefit all workers, and the public do not realize that it leaves untouched the almost more important members of society in the mothers and the children—our citizens."

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"And many others have spoken at many public meetings in our districts in the last two years with a view to calling attention to this, but none of the subscribers to these voluntary charities are falling off, and the only reason is that the Government has chosen to provide by means of this insurance act. Had the Government faced the real needs of the country, rather than the political needs of the party (which, unfortunately, is the danger of all party politics), they would, first of all, have provided for destitute and needy and sick mothers and children, and then for sick and injured workers. As it is, the most crying needs have been ignored, while by the insurance act the stream of voluntary charity even in these directions. I trust your commission will avoid this grave error."

"Then I may also add that the present old age pension act and the insurance act are both destructive of true thrift by placing the steady, careful, worker and the worker on equal footing, removing any incentive for thrift and personal provision for a rainy day, as essential for the character building of a nation."

As to private charities administering such a State law, the example set by England in administering the insurance act through the Friendly Societies with all the present complications and dissatisfactions would point to our profiting by this experience to advocate our measure to be directly operated by the State. That the private charities cannot possibly meet these conditions adequately and that their work must of necessity continue in the direction of temporary relief or in the direction of better standards of life—in fact, co-operating with the State for better results—this, also, is conceded in these other countries.

Dr. Levy, President of the Central Board of Charities of Berlin, who affiliates with 2,000 organizations, is of the belief that it would be impossible for private organizations to handle the problem of public poor relief. "First of all," said Dr. Levy, "State aid is the only sure and constant aid, while private charities must of necessity be more temporary, supplementary, and of course less certain."

"As to the relief of children, especially that of widowed mothers, which form of relief is rarely questionable as to its claim, the Social Insurance act can hardly be said to affect them. I do not think it possible now or at any future time that social insurance could adequately meet these needs. The benefits would have to be so enormous that it is operation ever being practical."

TEMPERANCE IN IRELAND.  
(From the Philadelphia Ledger.)  
The cause of temperance is making

steadily, if not rapidly, strides in Ireland, and for the first time since the days of Father Mathew the people appear determined upon a concerted effort to rid the country of the stigma of drunkenness. In Managh, in the Province of Ulster, there was recently a very marked and sympathetic demonstration in favor of the temperance movement, and later on Drogheda and other towns in the North of Ireland followed suit. The size of the meetings and the enthusiasm of those present showed the sincerity of the people in their desire to rid Ireland forever of what, at one time, had become almost a national disgrace. The cause of temperance, said Cardinal Logue at one of the meetings, is the cause of peaceful homes and comfortable people, the cause of the children and the youth well looked after, the cause of growing prosperity and the regeneration of Ireland, and above all, the cause of the eternal welfare of the people.

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12c

Essie Peaches, choicest California Lemon Clings

Essie Sliced Peaches, choicest California in rich syrup; large can

California Peaches, large can choice

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Pea Beans, of the highest grade..

Whole Green Peas, full of flavor.

Split Peas, Green and Yellow....

Lentils, choice quality.....

5c

Irish Mackerel, meaty and plump

Big, Fat Mackerel, each, 7c; 3 for 20c

Alaska Salmon, pink, 1-lb. tall can, 8c

Columbia River Salmon, Bell Boy, 10c

Essie Salmon, best Columbia River Steaks; 25c

Imported Sardines, in oil, 3 cans 25c

Roller Oats, fresh milled; highest quality.....

3 lbs. 12c

Splendid Quality for Such Low Prices:

Ceylon Tea, 29c

Choice Coffee, 25c

50 2x Stamps FREE with 1-lb. Carton

Ceylon Golden Tips Tea 50c

10 2x Stamps FREE with each:

Laundry Starch, 18c

Table Salt, 10c

Washing Fluid, 10c

Peppermint Sauce, 15c

Butter's big bottle Worcestershire, 15c

Azure Ball Blue, 10c

Violet Ammonia, 15c

Always reliable, large bottle.....

For the bath: bottle.....

Parlor Brooms, Strong and serviceable; regularly 25c, each.....

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Save hard rubbing; make washing easy; each....

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12c

Essie Peaches, choicest California Lemon Clings

Essie Sliced Peaches, choicest California in rich syrup; large can

California Peaches, large can choice

California Asparagus, Large can

Pea Beans, of the highest grade..

Whole Green Peas, full of flavor.

Split Peas, Green and Yellow....

Lentils, choice quality.....

5c

Irish Mackerel, meaty and plump

Big, Fat Mackerel, each, 7c; 3 for 20c

Alaska Salmon, pink, 1-lb. tall can, 8c

Columbia River Salmon, Bell Boy, 10c

Essie Salmon, best Columbia River Steaks; 25c

Imported Sardines, in oil, 3 cans 25c

Roller Oats, fresh milled; highest quality.....

3 lbs. 12c

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Choice Coffee, 25c

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Ceylon Golden Tips Tea 50c

10 2x Stamps FREE with each:

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Washing Fluid, 10c

Peppermint Sauce, 15c

Butter's big bottle Worcestershire, 15c

Azure Ball Blue, 10c

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Always reliable, large bottle.....

For the bath: bottle.....

Parlor Brooms, Strong and serviceable; regularly 25c, each.....

100 2x Stamps FREE with

Vacuum Washers Clean by Suction.

Save hard rubbing; make washing easy; each....

75c

At All 35 James Butler Inc. Markets

Choice Chuck Steak.....lb. 14c

Forequarter Canada Lamb..lb. 10c

3 lbs. Finest Sauerkraut

1 lb. Premium Frankfurters

25c

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Butler's Malt Whiskey Strengthens and

60 2x Stamps FREE With Each:

Old Cabinet Rye Whiskey, Full '1.00

Kingussie Scotch Whiskey, Quart 85c

Superior Gin, Old Tom or Hollands, bottle 75c

Superior Rum, Jamaica or Medford, bottle 75c